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Policy Brief...H.R. 4568--Fiscal Year 2005 Interior Appropriations

DRAFT

BY THE NUMBERS:

Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars

	FY '04 Enacted	FY '05 Request	FY '05 Cmte Bill
Appropriations	19,567	19,977	19,757
Emergency Spending	447	0	0

Excluding the Emergency Spending for FY 04, the Committee bill is:

- \$190 million or 1% more than last year;
- \$220 million or 1.1% less than the request;

Including the FY04 Emergency Spending, the bill is \$257 million or 1.3% below last year.

Note: The Committee bill also includes a \$500 million supplemental appropriation for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for “urgent wildland fire suppression activities.” The funding will become available if:

- the wildland fire suppression program is funded at the 10-year average;
- there are insufficient funds in the suppression program for the current fiscal year; and
- the current fire season is of sufficient severity to require the funds.

This potential appropriation is not included in the totals above.

FUNDING ISSUES:

MAJOR PROGRAMS:

In Thousands of Dollars

	FY 04 Enacted	FY 05 Request	FY 05 Committee	Cmte Over FY 04	Cmte Over Request	% Over FY 04	% Over Request
Bureau of Land Management							
Management of Lands & Resources.....	839,848	837,462	840,401	553	2,939	0.07%	0.35%
Wildland Fire Mgmt (Including Emergencies)	783,593	743,099	743,099	-40,494	0	-5.17%	0.00%
Construction.....	13,804	6,476	15,000	1,196	8,524	8.66%	131.60%
Land Acquisition.....	18,370	24,000	4,500	-13,780	-19,500	-75.50%	-81.25%
Oregon & California Grant Lands.....	105,357	116,058	111,557	6,200	-4,501	5.88%	-3.88%
PILT.....	224,696	226,000	226,000	1,304	0	0.58%	0.00%
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service							
Resource Mgmt.....	956,483	950,987	970,494	14,011	19,507	1.46%	2.05%
Construction.....	59,808	22,111	48,400	-11,408	26,289	-19.07%	118.90%
Land Acquisition.....	43,091	45,041	12,500	-30,591	-32,541	-70.99%	-72.25%
Landowner Incentive Program.....	29,630	50,000	15,000	-14,630	-35,000	-49.37%	-70.00%
Private Stewardship Grants.....	7,408	10,000	5,000	-2,408	-5,000	-32.50%	-50.00%
Cooperative Endangered Species Fund.....	81,596	90,000	81,596	0	-8,404	0.00%	-9.34%
National Wildlife Refuge Fund.....	14,237	14,414	14,414	177	0	1.24%	0.00%
North Amer Wetlands Conserv Fund.....	37,531	54,000	38,000	469	-16,000	1.25%	-29.63%
Neotropical Migratory Birds Conservation...	3,951	0	4,400	449	4,400	11.36%	
Multinational Species	5,532	9,500	5,900	368	-3,600	6.65%	-37.89%
State Wildlife Grants Fund.....	69,138	80,000	67,500	-1,638	-12,500	-2.37%	-15.62%
National Park Service							
Operations of Park System.....	1,609,560	1,686,067	1,686,067	76,507	0	4.75%	0.00%
US Park Police.....	77,888	81,204	81,204	3,316	0	4.26%	0.00%
National Recreation & Preservation.....	61,776	37,736	53,877	-7,899	16,141	-12.79%	42.77%
Urban Park & Recreation Fund.....	301	0	0	-301	0		0.00%
Historic Preservation Fund.....	73,583	77,533	71,533	-2,050	-6,000	-2.79%	-7.74%
Construction.....	329,879	329,880	297,628	-32,251	32,252	-9.78%	-9.78%
Land Acquisition & State Assistance.....	135,594	178,124	107,500	-28,094	-70,624	-20.72%	-39.65%
U.S. Geological Survey.....	937,985	919,788	944,498	6,513	24,710	0.69%	2.69%
Minerals Mgmt Service.....	170,297	178,680	170,680	8,383	0	0.22%	-4.48%
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement							
Regulation & Technology.....	105,113	108,805	108,805	3,692	0	3.51%	0.00%
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.....	190,591	243,863	194,106	3,515	-49,757	1.84%	-20.40%
Bureau of Indian Affairs							
Operation of Indian Programs.....	1,892,706	1,929,477	1,935,033	42,327	5,556	2.24%	0.29%
Construction.....	346,825	283,126	348,626	1,801	65,500	0.52%	23.13%
Insular Affairs.....	82,123	78,876	80,434	-1,689	1,558	-2.06%	1.98%
Departmental Mgmt.....	81,599	99,103	79,551	-2,048	-19,552	-2.51%	-19.73%

Office of the Solicitor.....	49,753	53,453	51,356	1,603	-2,097	3.22%	-3.92%
Office of the Inspector General.....	38,271	39,400	37,655	-616	-1,745	-1.61%	-4.43%
Special Trustee for American Indians.....	209,014	317,666	238,267	29,253	-79,399	14.00%	-24.99%
Forest Service							
Research.....	266,387	280,654	280,654	14,267	0	5.36%	0.00%
State & Private Forestry.....	304,344	294,388	282,446	-21,898	-11,942	-7.20%	-4.06%
National Forest System.....	1,365,877	1,655,837	1,399,599	33,722	-256,238	2.47%	-15.47%
Wildland Fire Mgmt (Including Emergencies)	1,947,041	1,428,886	1,734,865	-212,176	305,979	-10.90%	21.41%
Capital Improvements & Maintenance.....	555,227	501,059	522,940	-32,287	21,881	-5.82%	4.37%
Land Acquisition.....	66,363	66,885	15,500	-50,863	-51,385	-76.64%	-76.83%
Land Acq Special Acts & Exchanges.....	1,287	1,303	1,303	16	0	1.24%	0.00%
Mgmt for Subsistence Use.....	5,467	5,962	5,962	495	0	9.05%	0.00%
Department of Energy							
Clean Coal Deferral	-97,000	0	-237,000	-140,000	-237,000		
Clean Coal Rescission.....	-88,000	-237,000	0	88,000	237,000		
Fossil Energy Research & Development....	672,770	635,799	601,875	-70,895	-33,924	-10.54%	-5.33%
Naval Petroleum & Oil Shale Reserves.....	17,995	18,000	18,000	5	0	0.00%	0.00%
Elk Hills Schools (Incl. Advance).....	72,000	72,000	72,000	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Energy Conservation.....	877,985	875,933	883,071	5,086	7,138	0.58%	0.81%
Economic Regulation.....	1,034	0	0	-1,034	0	-100%	0.00%
Strategic Petroleum Reserve.....	170,949	172,100	172,100	1,151	0	0.67%	0.00%
Northeast Home Heating Reserve.....	4,939	5,000	5,000	61	0	1.24%	0.00%
Energy Information Administration.....	-97,000	0	-237,000	-140,000	-237,000		
Department of HHS							
Indian Health Service.....	2,921,715	2,967,272	3,033,370	111,655	66,098	3.82%	2.23%
Other							
Navajo & Hopi Relocation.....	13,366	11,000	11,000	-2,366	0	-17.70%	0.00%
Inst of Amer Ind & Alas Nat Culture & Arts.	6,173	6,000	6,000	-173	0	-2.80%	0.00%
Smithsonian.....	596,279	628,025	619,825	23,546	-8,200	3.95%	-1.31%
National Gallery of Art.....	98,225	104,100	104,100	5,875	0	5.98%	0.00%
Kennedy Center.....	32,159	33,486	27,152	-5,007	-6,334	-15.57%	-18.92%
Woodrow Wilson Center.....	8,498	8,987	8,987	489	0	5.75%	0.00%
NEA.....	120,972	139,400	120,972	0	-18,428	0.00%	-13.22%
NEH.....	135,310	162,000	138,499	3,189	-23,501	2.36%	-14.51%
Commission of Fine Arts.....	1,405	1,793	1,793	388	0	27.62%	0.00%
National Capital Arts & culture.....	6,914	5,000	7,000	86	2,000	1.24%	40.00%
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation..	3,951	4,600	4,600	649	0	16.43%	0.00%
National Capital Planning Commission.....	7,635	8,155	7,999	364	-156	4.77%	-1.91%
Holocaust Memorial.....	39,505	41,433	41,433	1,928	0	4.88%	0.00%
Presidio Trust.....	20,445	20,000	20,000	-445	0	-2.18%	0.00%

LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE:

- Prohibits BLM funds from being used to destroy health, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the BLM or its contractors.
- Allows the Secretary of the Interior to use wildland fire appropriations to enter into non-competitive sole source leases of property with local governments, at or below fair market value, to construct fire facilities, such as fire guard stations and retardant stations.
- Allows the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer up to \$12 million between the two departments for wildland fire management programs and projects.
- Allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft.
- Prohibits all National Park Service partnership projects in excess of \$5,000,000 without advance written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, excluding the Flight 93 Memorial.
- Prohibits funds from being used for the planning, design, or construction of any underground security screening or visitor facility at the Washington Monument until the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations have approved such a facility in writing.
- Prevents funds from being used for activities in direct response to the United Nations Biodiversity Convention.
- Prohibits funds from being used for Outer Continental Shelf leasing activities in certain areas of California, the North Atlantic, Washington and Oregon, and the eastern Gulf of Mexico.
- Prevents oil and gas leasing in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (outside of Sale 181 area) or in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Planning Areas.
- Allows the Secretary to use 80 percent of franchise fees to reduce debt related to possessory interest and leasehold surrender interest.
- Allows the National Indian Gaming Commission to collect \$12 million in fees for fiscal year 2006.
- Limits to \$58,000,000 the amount of funds that are available for activities of the Special Trustee for American Indians for certain activities related to accounting for Indian Trust Accounts (response to Cobell vs. Norton litigation) for records collection and indexing, imaging and coding, accounting for per capita and judgment accounts, accounting for tribal accounts, reviewing and distributing funds from special deposit accounts, and program management of the Office of Historical Trust Accounting, including litigation support.

- Prohibits gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act on lands described in section 123 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, or land that is contiguous to that land (the Huron Cemetery in Wyandotte County, Kansas).
- Creates permanent restrictions on the use of the National Mall for a special event, unless the permit expressly prohibits the erection, placement, or use of structures and signs bearing commercial advertising, but allows for the recognition of sponsors of an event.
- Cancels \$40 million in mandatory funding for the forest land enhancement program that was included in the 2002 Farm Bill.
- Allows the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to limit competition for watershed restoration project contracts as part of the “Jobs in the Woods” Program in Region 10 of the Forest Service.
- Extends the Forest Service Conveyances Pilot Program to 2008.
- Continues to prohibit oil and gas drilling in the Finger Lakes National Forest, New York.
- Restricts the use of the Recreation Fee Demonstration program to certain developed sites. Fees may not be charged for the use of undesignated parking along roads, overlooks or scenic pullouts, general area information offices and centers that provide limited services, and dispersed areas for which expenditures in facilities or services are limited.
- Requires extensive annual reporting by the Administration regarding competitive sourcing activities, caps the amount of money the Departments of Energy, Interior, and Forest Service may expend on outsourcing activities without additional approval of the Committees on Appropriations, and sets limits on the conversion of activities performed by more than 10 Federal employees to contractors unless certain conditions are met.
- Authorizes a land conveyance within the San Bernardino National Forest in California.
- The bill does not extend the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (currently expires on December 31, 2005)

EARMARKS & OTHER PROGRAMS:

The bill earmarks \$1.75 million for local governments in southern California for planning associated with the National Communities Conservation Planning program. Other earmarks include:

- \$700,000 to the city of Tacoma, Washington, to conduct a feasibility study for the Train to Mountain project
- \$66 million for the New Orleans Jazz Commission
- \$796 million for the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve

- \$3.177 billion for the Eastern MA National Wildlife Refuge visitors center and administration building
- \$883 million for the Kanai AK National Wildlife Refuge visitors center